AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

In the Specification: [Use ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter (or double square brackets "[[]]" if the strikethrough is not easily perceivable, *i.e.*, "4" or a punctuation mark) and underlined for added matter.]

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 1, line 10 as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. patent applications entitled "Line Sharing Multipoint POTS Splitter Amplifier-Based Coupler" ~~filed on even date herewith (Atty. Docket No. 061607-1650)~~ Serial No. 09/748,487, filed December 27, 2000, "Line Sharing Multipoint POTS Splitter Masking Noise" ~~filed on even date herewith (Atty. Docket No. 061607-1660)~~ now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,775,355, issue date August 10, 2004, and "Line Sharing Multipoint POTS Splitter Controllable Line Selector" ~~filed on even date herewith (Atty. Docket No. 061607-1670)~~ now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,771,740, issue date August 3, 2004, which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 10, line 1 as follows:

Moreover, in the above-described illustrative example, the user of telephone 30A at CP 24A typically does not want his telephone conversation detectable by a third party who may have access to subscriber loops 26B-26D. That is, the user of telephone 30A typically does not want their conversation being communicated over subscriber ~~lop~~ loop 26A to be eavesdropped on. For example, the user of telephone 30A may be a stockbroker or security analyst who may be discussing confidential information. An eavesdropper may desire to eavesdrop on the conversation to gain access to the potentially valuable confidential information. Such an eavesdropper, having access to one of the subscriber loops 26B-26D, could detect the leakage signal with appropriate amplification equipment such that the conversation on telephone 30A

could be overheard. Thus, there is an heretofore unaddressed need to prevent a third party eavesdropper from overhearing leakage signals that may exist on subscriber loops which have been coupled into a common multiple virtual line (MVL) transceiver 60.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 18, line 17 as follows:

FIG. 12 is a block diagram illustrating an alternative embodiment of the amplifier-based coupler of FIG. 10.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 21, line 10 as follows:

Generally described, the present invention pertains to an eavesdropping prevention system and method which prevents, or at least ~~make~~ makes more difficult, the detection of leakage signal 80. A first embodiment of the eavesdropping prevention system and method, the connection sharing multipoint POTS splitter with intelligent termination, employs a leakage signal (LS) filter which effectively blocks the lower frequency leakage signal 80, thereby preventing the leakage signal from propagating to other communication connections which are coupled to a common communication device such as, but not limited to, a multiple virtual connection (MVL) digital equipment unit. Also included may be a detect and terminate function which detects service on the communication connection to which the LS filter is coupled to. The detect and terminate function automatically de-couples (terminates) the LS filter if the communication connection becomes out-of-service. The second embodiment of the eavesdropping prevention system and method includes an amplifier-based coupler configured with a nearly-zero impedance path, which shunts the leakage signal away from the other communication connections. The third embodiment of the eavesdropping prevention system and method includes a mask signal generator which generates a mask signal that is superimposed over leakage signal 80. The fourth embodiment of the eavesdropping prevention system and method includes a controllable line selection unit which isolates the communication connection over which a signal is being communicated from other communication connections.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 33, line 7 as follows:

In the context of this document, a "computer-readable medium" can be any means that can contain, store, communicate, propagate, or transport the program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. The computer- readable medium can be, for example but not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared, or semiconductor system, apparatus, device, or propagation medium. More specific examples (a non-exhaustive list) of the computer-readable medium would include the following: an electrical connection (electronic) having one or more wires, a portable computer diskette (magnetic), a random access memory (RAM) (electronic), a read-only memory (ROM) (electronic), an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM or Flash memory) (electronic), an optical fiber (optical), and a portable compact disc read-only memory (CDROM) (optical). Note that the computer-readable medium could even be paper or another suitable medium upon which the program is printed, as the program can be electronically captured, via for instance optical scanning of the paper or other medium, then compiled, interpreted or otherwise processed in a suitable manner, if necessary, and then stored in a computer memory.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 34, line 12 as follows:

FIG. 10 illustrates a portion of a telephony system 20''', which corresponds to telephony system 20" (FIG. 3), employing the second embodiment of the eavesdropping prevention system and method, a connection sharing multipoint POTS splitter with an amplifier-based coupler, hereinafter referred to as the amplifier-based coupler for convenience. Amplifier-based coupler 146 couples MVL transceiver 60 with a plurality of subscriber loops 26A-26C. For convenience of illustration, the amplifier-based coupler 146 couples four subscriber loops 26A-26D to MVL transceiver 60. However, the amplifier-based coupler 146 could be configured to couple two subscriber loops, three subscriber loops, or more than four subscriber loops, to the MVL transceiver 60. MVL transceiver 60 is used for convenience of illustration. The amplifier-based coupler 146 will work equally well with any similarly functioning communication device or other communication devices wherein a plurality of communication connections are coupled together such that leakage signals may propagate ~~unto~~ onto the commonly coupled communication connections. It is intended that all such additional systems and communication devices

employing the amplifier-based coupler 146 be included within the scope of this disclosure and be protected by the accompanying claims for the amplifier-based coupler 146.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 68, line 17 as follows:

The Tx+ signal from MVL transmitter 368 is provided to switch 310 via connection 380. The Tx- signal is provided to switch 312 via connection 382. When the switches are actuated to the A position for communication of the Tx+ signal position (corresponding to channel 1 in the example above) connectivity to line coupler A is provided from the A position in switch 310 via connections 384 and 386. Likewise, when switch 312 is actuated to the A position, connectivity to line coupler A for communication of the TX- signal is provided over connections 388 and 390. Switches (not shown) in the receive line selector 308 are also actuated to position A such that any received signals (Rx+ and Rx-) may be detected over connections 392 and 394. As described above, controller 304 has provided switch position control signal to switch 310 and switch 312, and switches residing in receive line selector 308 to actuate to position A via connection 396.

Please amend the paragraph starting on p. 77, line 12 as follows:

For convenience of illustration and for convenience of explaining the operation and functionality of the controllable line selection unit, an exemplary four channel time-division multiplexed communication signal was described. The controllable line selection unit will perform equally well with other types of communication signals, such as, but not limited to, a time-division multiplexed echo canceled communication signal, a time-division multiplexed frequency-division communication signal, a time-division time-compressed communication signal or other suitable communication signal having at least two time-multiplexed channels. The controllable line selection unit detects transitions in a communication signal and activates switches to predefined positions based upon the detected transitions. The detected transitions correspond to portions of a communication signal that are intended to be communicated to one of a plurality of different locations and/or different devices. Any such alternative embodiments of a controllable line selection unit configured to detect transitions in a communication signal and is configured to actuate switch positions accordingly, are intended to be within the scope of this

disclosure and to be protected by the accompanying claims for the controllable line selection unit.